

# Foster Parents and Caregivers

Changing Lives One Child at a Time

March 2008



## Do You Have a High School Senior at Home That is About to Graduate?

### Do you know about the new high school graduation requirements?

This year there are some new graduation requirements for 2008 graduating seniors. For a complete description of the requirements, frequently asked questions, and a link for specific questions, please see the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) website: <http://www.k12.wa.us/GraduationRequirements/default.aspx>.

#### There are four primary steps involved in meeting requirements to graduate:

- 1) All students must develop a “High School and Beyond Plan” – A transition to life after High School plan which may include 2 or 4 year college plans, career or vocational training, employment possibilities, etc.
- 2) All students must have a minimum of 19 credits and some school districts require 20 credits to graduate. Contact your High School counselor for specific information about the credit requirement for your student’s school.
- 3) All students must either earn a Certificate of Academic Achievement or a Certificate of Individual Achievement. Your student will earn the Certificate of Academic Achievement (CAA) by passing the 10th grade Reading and Writing Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) or an approved option to the WASL. Your student may earn the Certificate of Individual Achievement (CIA) if they are unable to take the High School WASL, have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and pass an alternative assessment process such as the Developmentally Appropriate WASL (DAW).
- 4) All students must complete a Culminating Project (Senior Project) which explores an area of interest using critical research and writing skills

## Are You Taking the Opportunity to be Heard?

### Do you know who your regional foster parent representatives are?

Are you attending the regional quarterly consultation meetings other foster parent and CA staff?

Please take the opportunity to be heard, attend your regional--your input is important! Attend your regional quarterly meeting to provide input to the regional foster parent representative to present at the quarterly statewide meeting.

Contact your regional representatives for more information.

#### Regional Foster Parent Representatives

REGION 1		
Meegan Ware	<a href="mailto:jamesandmeegan@comcast.net">jamesandmeegan@comcast.net</a>	(ph. 509-482-2033)
Ginger Schutt	<a href="mailto:fosmom09@comcast.net">fosmom09@comcast.net</a>	(ph. 509-535-3398)
REGION 2		
Mary-Jeanne Smith	<a href="mailto:smithhomes@hotmail.com">smithhomes@hotmail.com</a>	(ph. 509-240-7356)
REGION 3		
Kim Elke	<a href="mailto:dandkelke@yahoo.com">dandkelke@yahoo.com</a>	(ph. 360-354-8087)
Julianna Kindlund-Carpenter	<a href="mailto:juliannaymca@yahoo.com">juliannaymca@yahoo.com</a>	(ph. 360-863-6530)
REGION 4		
Ann Travis Barker	<a href="mailto:stjhon14n@aol.com">stjhon14n@aol.com</a>	(ph. 206-898-9192)
Ruth Graham	<a href="mailto:rrg47@msn.com">rrg47@msn.com</a>	(ph. 206-605-0664)
REGION 5		
Debra Converse	<a href="mailto:president@kitsapfostercare.org">president@kitsapfostercare.org</a>	(ph. 360-692-1927)
Debra Van Cleaves	<a href="mailto:deborahat@comcast.net">deborahat@comcast.net</a>	(ph. 253-473-9252)
REGION 6		
Amy Gardner	<a href="mailto:michaelamy52@msn.com">michaelamy52@msn.com</a>	(ph. 360-200-2102)
Marci Miess	<a href="mailto:marcimiess@hotmail.com">marcimiess@hotmail.com</a>	(ph. 360-880-5330)

## Statewide Quarterly Consultation Group

The purpose of the quarterly statewide consultation group is to improve communication between foster parents and Children's Administration centered on recruitment and retention of foster homes and effective foster parent training.

## The Next Statewide Quarterly Meeting

April 23, 2008

1:00 to 4:00

Casey Family Services Field Office

1123 23rd Avenue • Seattle, WA 98122

206-322-6711

## Walk Me Home... To A Place I Belong Event

The Foster Parent Association of Washington (FPAWS) is proud to be participating in the First Annual Nationwide 5K Walk for Foster Care, presented by the National Foster Parent Association (NFPA). During the month of May, in support of National Foster Care Month, walks will be happening in various locations across the state and nation.

Washington has at least three walks confirmed at this time: the State walk in Olympia, along with local events in Everett, and Centralia on Saturday May 3, 2008. Spokane is scheduled for May 31, 2008.

For more information on how to walk a child home please contact Ramsey Graham at (253) 569-1180 or [walkmehomewa@skynetbb.com](mailto:walkmehomewa@skynetbb.com) or the website at [www.walkmehome.org](http://www.walkmehome.org).

## Free Training Opportunities for Foster/Relative Caregivers

Treehouse invites all foster/relative caregivers to participate in Early Learning, General Education Advocacy & Post-High School Planning workshop sessions.

For information or to bring this training to your local Foster Parent Association/foster parent hub please call Phoebe Sade-Anderson at 206-267-5102.

## Important Resources and Numbers

**Important numbers to know when you take care of children in out of home care.**

**Foster Parent and Caregiver Crisis and Support Line:** 1-800-301-1868.

### On-Going and Crisis Supports for foster parents

Under contracts with the state, three private agencies are working to build supports for you within the foster care community. Supports include hubs, support groups and matching new foster parents with veteran foster parents. To get connected:

- If you live in eastern Washington, the Olympic Peninsula down through Pacific County or from Thurston County to Clark County, call 1-888-794-1794.
- If you live in King County, call 206-605-0664 and in any county from Snohomish County north, call 360-510-7601 or 360-863-6530.
- If you live in Pierce or Kitsap counties, call 253-473-9252.

**Family Help Line:** 1-800-932-HOPE or [www.parenttrust.org](http://www.parenttrust.org). The Family Help Line is a free, statewide training and referral line for the families of Washington State. Last year, the Family Help Line received over 5,000 calls and requests for information. Calls can last up to 90 minutes and parents can call as often as needed.

Support for foster parents under investigation for allegations of abuse or neglect: **Foster Parent Investigation Retention Support Team (FIRST)** 1-253-219-6782. Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., or leave a message and receive a return call within 24 hours.

**Mental Health Crisis Line Information:** The crisis line telephone number for your county or region is available on the DSHS Mental Health Division website at: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/mentalhealth/crisis.shtml>.

### General foster parent information for the state of Washington

**FPAWS: Foster Parent Association of Washington State**, 1-800-391-CARE (2273) or [www.fpaws.org](http://www.fpaws.org). FPAWS is seeking new members and supporting foster parents in many ways, including referrals to local associations.

Kitsap and Pierce County information about becoming a foster parent or to receive foster parent support: **Foster Care Resource Network**, 1-253-473-9252. Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or leave a message and receive a return call by the next business day.

### NEW – Resource Available Statewide

Get connected to information on resources in your area by calling 211 – a toll free number.

#### Foster Parent Homepage Site

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents>

#### Training for foster/relative caregivers

Check out: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/training.asp>

#### Children's Administration Foster Care Listserv

Check out: <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=fosterparents&&A=1>

More postings coming soon on resources, news items, trainings.